



**Town of West Boylston**  
140 Worcester Street, West Boylston, Massachusetts 01583

## **Solid Waste Advisory Team (SWAT) Meeting Minutes DRAFT #1**

**June 11, 2020, 1:30 PM, a virtual Meeting held via Zoom because of COVID 19 pandemic**

**Members Present:** Julianne deRivera - Chair, Norma Chanis, Duane Henry Barur Rajeshkumar, Elise Wellington

**Others Present:** Town Administrator Nancy Lucier

**Members not Present:** None

This virtual meeting via Zoom was posted as such, with instructions on how to participate on the Agenda. The meeting began at 1:30 PM.

Rajeshkumar read disclaimer (?) statement re public viewing of our virtual SWAT meeting today.

**Minutes:** Rajeshkumar motioned, Henry seconded approval of SWAT Draft minutes from February 13, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

**West Boylston New Trash Collection Contract:** Lucier reported that that our present trash collector, Republic, responded to the town's RFP with the best deal for the town. Its bid came in at \$345,000, but was all inclusive, whereas Pellegrino bid \$327,000 but would have charged the town extra for the trash trucks. Casella's bid came in at \$371,000. Wellington compared Republic's bid of \$345,000 to WB's FY 2019 collection cost of \$257,673, a 34% increase in collection costs over the past 2 years. Lucier acknowledged that the price was higher due to the expense of collecting recyclables now. Up until now, recyclables were collected for free. Lucier noted that our contract with Republic was significantly lower than what other towns are being charged for collection.

Lucier added that WB's disposal contract is up in January 2021, but can be renewed. She reported being pleased to be working with the Republic outreach representative, Dan Higgins, who was accessible and helpful. The town will continue to use PAYT bags and Single Stream recyclables in bins; no toters as they encourage increased rates of contamination. Regarding contamination, Republic will be able to leave a sticker notifying the resident if improper trash or recyclables are placed at their curb. Repeated offenses will result in the collector not picking up the offending trash or recyclable container.

**Pink Bag Textile Collection Program:** Due to the unforeseen circumstances from the COVID 19 Pandemic, the Pink Bag Program was suspended from approximately March 20th thru May 20th. It has since resumed, with continued good participation. Lucier noted that on the 15th of every month, the total weight of recyclables and the reimbursement check are sent to the town. So far, this program has collected 20,000 lbs that are thus not going into the landfills. WB has received \$300 in revenue from the program.

**City Compost Co:** deRivera reported that City Compost (CC) has not contacted SWAT since their presentation at our meeting on December 12, 2019. Chanis had reached out earlier to Adam Jankaukas, Operational Manager of CC, as he continues to service the Wachusett Recycling Center (taking their compost waste). Chanis wants CC to decide whether it makes the most sense to work with individuals in the town or with the entire town. Henry feels that it would be easier to move the town towards composting by starting with seasonal pick up of leaves, grass cuttings, and Christmas trees. To that end, Henry brought the CC handouts to the landscaping companies that manage Angell Brook. deRivera is still hopeful that she can work with the new superintendent of West Boylston schools starting in the fall of 2020 to begin a composting program for the elementary and middle/high schools.

**FY2019 Spreadsheet:** We then focused on the Trash/Recycling numbers +needed to complete SWAT's FY 2019 Spreadsheet. Wellington reported that she had finally obtained the information needed to confirm that there were no PAYT bags purchased for the second half of FY2019 by working with Courtney Forrester at Waste Zero. Apparently, it was only in FY2020 that Waste Zero started deducting its charges for manufacturing and distributing the bags from the revenue received from the sale of these PAYT bags to the public. Each month, Waste Zero is now sending Wellington a lengthy, detailed list showing each delivery of PAYT bags to each outlet, so that Wellington can figure out how much these many transactions cost the town and how much was received by the town in revenue.

She suggested that the town request that each FY Waste Zero simply give the Town the total cost to the town for the Waste Zero PAYT bags and the total revenue brought in from the sale of these PAYT bags. With these two figures, SWAT can continue doing its Trash/Recycling Spreadsheet each FY the same simple way it has done it in the past. At Lucier's request, Wellington agreed to draft such a Letter.

**Sustainability Group:** Chanis reported that neither the town Sustainability Group, which meets monthly, every 2nd Friday, at the library from 1 – 2 pm, nor the school-based group 'Green Living' had been meeting since mid-March when the lock-down from the corona virus pandemic was enforced.

**Bottle Bill Update:** Wellington noted that supermarkets re-opened their bottle and can redemption machines (and thus, plastic bag recycling collection as well) on June 5th and the over-the-counter bottle/can redemption will resume on June 19th. She said that she had contacted the woman who had spoken to Lucier about her concern over the large number of the 'nips' bottles littering the town. Wellington urged her to contact our state legislators regarding specific bills that are before the legislature to reduce nips litter, such as one bill to include nips bottles in the bottle bill.

**New DPW Director:** Lucier confirmed that WB still has a temporary DPW head and that there were only 4 DPW workers working (2 were out on medical leave).

**Town Meeting:** Lucier spoke about WB's upcoming town meeting, June 29<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm to be held in 3 separate places in the WB High School building (auditorium, cafeteria, and library- each with their own moderator) to maintain appropriate social distancing. Lucier is hoping that the rest of the town buildings will be able to open September 1<sup>st</sup>, in accordance with the Board of Health regulations.

**Litter Pick-Up Day:** SWAT wondered whether there would be another town-wide spring clean-up day or series of days, as these efforts do seem to be effective. deRivera reported that the WHOC inmates would resume their occasional road-side pick-up efforts in the spring as well.

**Next Meeting:** SWAT will meet next on August 13, 2020 at 1:30 pm.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Submitted by

Julianne deRivera, Chair SWAT